

Remarks

The below remarks indicate the allowability of each of the pending claims. The remarks also address each of the points raised in the Office Action.

Claim Objections

The Action objects to claims 4-6 and 8. The Examiner has amended claims 4-6 and 8 to eliminate the phrase “preferably” and the limitations recited thereafter. New claims 22-25 cover the subject matter recited after the phrase “preferably”. As Applicant has addressed the claim objections, the objections should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections, 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12, 14-15, 17-19 as being unpatentable over Mansukhani, U.S. Patent 4,243,694. Applicant disagrees that Mansukhani makes the invention as recited in the above claims obvious. Mansukhani is concerned with ink compositions that are fluorescent in ultraviolet light. The examples in Mansukhani, as recognized by the Examiner, do not specify the use of methyl acetate. The Mansukhani references’ only direction towards using methyl acetate is the mere mention of the composition. One would not understand how much methyl acetate to utilize to make the ink composition of Mansukhani suitable for ink jet printing.

For instance, it is Applicant’s opinion that one replacing part of the solvents set forth in Mansukhani, Examples 1, 2 and 4, with methyl acetate will not achieve the fast drying demonstrated or adhesion needed for suitable ink jet printing. For instance, it is noted that Examples 1, 2 and 4 contain a large proportion of methyl cellosolve which is a slow evaporating solvent. Further, Example 3 contains methyl ethyl ketone and methanol as a solvent system, which is not a fast drying system. Therefore, contrary to the comments in the Office Action, the Mansukhani reference does not have any teaching or suggestion to guide one to utilize a

composition having an amount of methyl acetate to cause the ink to dry in less than one second. Thus, one would not have motivation to use the compound for ink jet printing. As all of the rejected claims include the drying time as a limitation, these claims are allowable. The 103 rejection to claims 1-12, 14-15, and 17-19 should be withdrawn.

The Action further states that claims 1-7, 10-12, 17-18 and 21 are obvious in view of Torii, U.S. Patent 6,207,613. Torii, however, also does not provide sufficient teachings to allow one to utilize methyl acetate in an amount to achieve ink suitable for ink jet printing. In Torii, methyl acetate is identified in a long list of suitable solvents but is not exemplified. In fact, the examples are in the main irrelevant to even arriving at ink for an ink jet printer. For instance, Example 1, 6, 7 and 8 relate to a thermo sensitive colorant, a colorless overprint varnish, a colorless intermediate layer and a layered recording material respectively. The examples do not concern an ink composition.

The remaining examples, 2-5 do show ink compositions. The examples, however, do not disclose the use of methyl acetate. If for any reason, any of the solvents were replaced in part by methyl acetate, the fast drying effect of the present invention would not be achieved. Thus, Torii does not have sufficient teaching to direct one how to achieve the fast drying times using methyl acetate. Thus, one would not have motivation to use the compound for ink jet printing. Thus, the Action's comments that one using methyl acetate as guided by Torii would achieve the same drying time as Applicant is simply incorrect. The rejection of claims 1-7, 10-12, 17-18 and 21 should be withdrawn in view of Torii.

Previously Indicated Allowed Subject Matter

The Examiner previously indicated in the Office Action that claim 20 was allowable. Applicant concurs. The Examiner also indicated that claims 13 and 16 would be allowable if

rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended these claims to stand in independent form. Therefore, claims 13 and 16 are allowable.

Conclusion

Applicant has addressed all of the objections and rejections raised in the Office Action. The pending claims stand in allowable condition. A Notice of Allowance should now issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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